

THE HONORABLE JOHN C. COUGHENOUR

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

DAKOTA NASIATKA,

Defendant.

CASE NO. CR21-0050-JCC

ORDER

This matter comes before the Court on parties' joint motion to proceed with a plea hearing by videoconference. (Dkt. No. 21.)

Under General Order 04-20, felony pleas and sentencings may proceed by video or telephone conferencing if "the district judge in a particular case finds for specific reasons that the plea or sentencing in that case cannot be further delayed without serious harm to the interests of justice." *See also* W.D. Wash. General Order 14-21 (Dec. 22, 2021) (extending the duration of General Order 04-20).

Having thoroughly considered the motion and the relevant record, the Court FINDS that further delay in the absence of a remote plea hearing would seriously harm the interests of justice. The following reasons support this finding: (1) the parties have reached a plea agreement, and not holding the hearing by videoconference or other remote means could unnecessarily delay resolution of the case; (2) not conducting the plea hearing remotely could unnecessarily prolong

1 the present state of uncertainty; and (3) Defendant indicates resolution of this case will reduce
2 his and his family's anxiety and allow them to plan for the future. (*See* Dkt. No. 21 at 1–3.)
3 Further, Defendant has filed a waiver of in-person appearance and consent to proceed by video
4 conference. (*See* Dkt. Nos. 22, 23.)

5 It is therefore ORDERED that the motion for a video plea hearing (Dkt. No. 21) is
6 GRANTED. The parties may contact the courtroom deputy for the criminal duty Magistrate
7 Judge to schedule the plea hearing if they have not yet done so. The Magistrate Judge is
8 DIRECTED to make a record of both Defendants' consent to a remote proceeding.

9 DATED this 7th day of March 2022.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John C. Coughenour", is written over a horizontal line.

John C. Coughenour
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE